

CLAIMS

1. A method for facilitating network device capability utilization within a network, said method comprising the steps of:

determining attributes of network devices communicating with the network;

5 enabling a user to select desired attributes of a network device for processing a job; and

facilitating processing of the job at one of the network devices corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of facilitating processing of the job at one of the network devices comprises:

receiving information corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user;

15 providing the user with a selection of network devices possessing attributes corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user; and

enabling the user to select one of the network devices provided by the selection of network devices for processing the job.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of enabling a user to select desired
20 attributes of a network device for processing a job comprises:

providing the user with a selection of network devices;

receiving information corresponding to a network device selected by the user;

providing the user with attributes corresponding to the network device selected by the user.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of enabling a user to select desired attributes of a network device comprises:

providing a graphical user interface for display to the user, the graphical user interface including a selection of attributes corresponding to attributes possessed by
5 network devices of the network.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the network devices are printers and the job is a print job.

10 6. The method of claim 4, wherein the graphical user interface is web-based such that the graphical user interface is viewable via a web browser.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining attributes of network devices comprises:

15 receiving information from a user corresponding to initiation of a print request; and

determining attributes of network devices communicating with the network in response to receiving the information.

20 8. A system for facilitating network device capability utilization, said system comprising:

a user interface system communicating with a network, said user interface system being configured to determine attributes of network devices communicating with the network, said user interface system providing a user interface;

said user interface being viewable with a web browser and being configured to enable a user to select desired attributes of a network device for processing a job such that said user interface system facilitates processing of the job at one of the network devices corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user.

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9. The system of claim 8, wherein said user interface system resides on a server, said server communicating with the network, and wherein said user interface is generated from the group consisting of a mark-up language and a scripting language.

10 10. The system of claim 8, further comprising a printer, and wherein one of the network devices is said printer.

11. A computer readable medium having a computer program for facilitating network device capability utilization within a network, said computer readable
15 medium comprising:

logic configured to determine attributes of network devices communicating with the network;

logic configured to enable a user to select desired attributes of a network device for processing a job; and

20 logic configured to facilitate processing of the job at one of the network devices corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user.

12. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the logic configured to facilitate processing of the job at one of the network devices comprises:

logic configured to receive information corresponding to the desired attributes
selected by the user;

logic configured to provide the user with a selection of network devices
possessing attributes corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user; and

5 logic configured to enable the user to select one of the network devices
provided by the selection of network devices for processing the job.

13. The computer readable medium of claim 11, wherein the logic configured to
enable a user to select desired attributes of a network device comprises logic
10 configured to provide a graphical user interface for display to the user, the graphical
user interface including a selection of attributes corresponding to attributes possessed
by network devices of the network.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 12, wherein the network devices are
15 printers and the job is a print job.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 14, wherein the logic configured to
determine attributes of network devices comprises:

logic configured to receive information from a user corresponding to initiation
20 of a print request; and

logic configured to determine attributes of network devices communicating
with the network in response to receiving the information.

16. A system for facilitating network device capability utilization within a network, said system comprising:

means for determining attributes of network devices communicating with the network;

5 means for enabling a user to select desired attributes of a network device for processing a job; and

means for facilitating processing of the job at one of the network devices corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user.

10 17. The system of claim 16, wherein said means for facilitating processing of the job at one of the network devices comprises:

means for receiving information corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user;

15 means for providing the user with a selection of network devices possessing attributes corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user; and

means for enabling the user to select one of the network devices provided by the selection of network devices for processing the job.

18. A system for facilitating network device capability utilization, said system
20 comprising:

a user interface system communicating with a network, said user interface system being configured to determine attributes of network devices communicating with the network, said user interface system providing a user interface, said user interface being configured to enable a user to select desired attributes of a network

device for processing a job such that said user interface system facilitates processing of the job at one of the network devices corresponding to the desired attributes selected by the user.

5 19. The system of claim 18, further comprising a printer, and wherein one of the network devices is said printer.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein said user interface is configured to display a printer capabilities field and a printer selection field, said printer capabilities field
10 being configured to display attributes of network devices communicating with the network, each of said attributes being selectable by a user, said printer selection field being configured to display network devices possessing said attributes selected by the user in said printer capabilities field, each of the network devices displayed by said printer selection field being selectable by the user such that the network device
15 selected in said printer selection field processes the job.